

The Nativity of Our Lord  
December 25, 2024

367 Angels from the Realms of Glory

1 Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. Refrain

ref Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the Infant Light. Refrain

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations,  
Ye have seen His natal star. Refrain

4 Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear. Refrain

△ 5 All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the eternal Three in One. Refrain

Text (Gn. 1, Mt. 2-12), James Montgomery, 1771-1854, #121 (St. 5); Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857; Salisbury, #1.  
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**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that

we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

Introit

*Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6*

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

**and the government shall be upon his shoulder,**

and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

**Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

**His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**

The LORD has made known his salvation;

**he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

**All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

**break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

as it was in the beginning,

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

**and the government shall be upon his shoulder,**

and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

**Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Kyrie

*LSB 152*

**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** Amen.

### 389 Let All Together Praise Our God

*sts. 1–3, 7*

- 1 **Let all together praise our God  
Before His glorious throne;  
Today He opens heav'n again  
To give us His own Son,  
To give us His own Son.**
  
  - 2 **He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne,  
Is born an infant small,  
And in a manger, poor and lone,  
Lies in a humble stall,  
Lies in a humble stall.**
  
  - 3 **Within an earthborn form He hides  
His all-creating light;  
To serve us all He humbly cloaks  
The splendor of His might,  
The splendor of His might.**
- △ 7 **Your grace in lowliness revealed,  
Lord Jesus, we adore  
And praise to God the Father yield  
And Spirit evermore;  
We praise You evermore.**

Text: *Wolfgang Herrmann*, c. 1480–1561, (Vol. 1, 7, 7); fr. *F. Servatius Jansen*, 1813–1893; (Vol. 2) fr. *August Croll*, 1845–1923, etc.  
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### Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**  
**P** Let us pray.  
Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** **Amen.**

### Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 52:7–10*

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Gradual

*Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a*

To us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
**and the government shall be upon his shoulder.**  
And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
**Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**  
Sing to the Lord a new song,  
**for he has done marvelous things!**

### Epistle Reading

*Hebrews 1:1–6*

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Alleluia and Verse

*LSB 156*

- C** **Alleluia.**  
**Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Holy Gospel Reading

*John 1:1–14*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.  
**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**
- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### 376 Once in Royal David's City

- 1 **Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.**
  
- 2 **He came down to earth from heaven,  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,  
And His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.**
  
- 3 **For He is our childhood's pattern,  
Day by day like us He grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us He knew;  
And He feels for all our sadness,  
And He shares in all our gladness.**
  
- 4 **And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heav'n above;  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He is gone.**

5 Not in that poor, lowly stable  
With the oxen standing by  
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars His children, crowned,  
All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1833-95, ed.  
Text: Public domain

Sermon: "Part of the Tree" John 1:1-14

Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the  
dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

**P** ...Lord, in your mercy:

**C** Hear our prayer.

**P** ...through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

Offering

Offertory

*LSB 159*

**C** What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?  
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the  
Lord.  
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Preface

*LSB 160*

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them to the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.  
**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus  
Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us  
a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we  
may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and  
archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your  
glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

*LSB 161*

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*LSB 161*

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those  
whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our  
sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation  
accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on  
the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to  
forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us  
faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own  
testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate

with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Lord's Prayer

*LSB 162*

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those  
who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### Pax Domini

*LSB 163*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

### Agnus Dei

*LSB 163*

**C** **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

### Distribution

### Thank the Lord

*LSB 164*

**C** **Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.  
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.  
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Benediction

*LSB 166*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**C** Amen.

### 387 Joy to the World

**1** **Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**2** **Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3** **No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**4** **He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1706–1748

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